



## Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

## Club Number

30893

## District

2452 Rotary International

## RI President

Mark Daniel Maloney,  
Rotary Club of Decatur,  
Alabama, USA

## District Governor

Shawkat Tadros

## Assistant Governor

Samir Constantin

## RCBC Officers

2019 - 2020

## President

Adib Mounla

## Incoming President

Habib Saba

## Vice President

Joe Boulos

## IPP

Mona Jarudi

## Secretary

Sona Kourtian Donigian

## Treasurer

Mohamad Baltaji

## Directors

Edouard Rassie  
Mimi Hamam  
Nadim Hissen

## RCBC Website

[www.rcbcebanon.org](http://www.rcbcebanon.org)  
[www.facebook.com/  
beirutcosmopolitan](https://www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan)

## MARHABA EDITOR

IPP Mona Jarudi  
[monajarudi@gmail.com](mailto:monajarudi@gmail.com)

## Club Assembly & Club Elections

“ELECTIONS OF NEW BOARD 2020 – 2021 ”

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

The first half of the Rotary year culminated with a general assembly where RCBC Members met to vote the New Board for RY 2020-2021.

### New Board for RY 2020-2021

P E: Habib Saba

V P: Joe Boulos

P N: Sona Kourtian

IPP : Adib Mounla

C S : Farida Najar

C T : Diana Cotran

### Board Directors:

PP Mona Jarudi

PP Habib Bassoul

PP Michel Mansour

The New Board was warmly welcomed by the members.

Best wishes for a great Rotary Year!



IPP Mona Jarudi

## Business meeting with DG Shawkat Tadros

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

On the occasion of the annual visit of the DG Shawkat Tadros to our club, RCBC held its business meeting followed by the traditional Christmas dinner that the club enjoys every year.

This meeting was well attended by RCBC members and guests in addition to our Rotaractors.

President Adib welcomed everyone and presentations were made by the Chairs of the different committees highlighting the great degree of Service that RCBC has enjoyed over the years. DG Tadros bestowed the honor of Paul Harris Fellows to 21 members of RCBC, thus setting a record of the highest number of PH fellows in the club to date. After the meeting, the group went on to enjoy a very festive Christmas dinner in Loris restaurant where the warmth of the season was enjoyed by one and all. It was a pleasure hosting our DG Shawkat, DDG Bana Kalash, ADG Samir Constantin and our Rotarian friends from RC Baabda, and RC Cedars.











## Business Meeting with Mr. Jad Jreijiri

“PERSONAL LEADERSHIP”

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Mr. Jad Jreijiri from LMI Lebanon explained how Personal Leadership can be developed using specific techniques. The session covered this notion for individuals but also for Rotary Clubs who can benefit from these techniques while preparing their strategic plan.

"People have always sought the “secrets of success” by studying the words, deeds, and actions of great leaders. For the most part, they have failed in that search because they looked only at the outer person rather than examining the thoughts, habits, attitudes and emotions - those intangible ingredients that make those who succeed stand out, the ingredients of “Personal Leadership”.

Purpose is one of the six success essentials of Personal Leadership, it's a discovery journey that starts with truly knowing oneself and one's values reaching to progressively realizing one's worthwhile, predetermined goals.

Leadership Management International (LMI) was founded in Waco, Texas in 1966. Today LMI is a global leader in helping develop people and organizations, spread over 80+ countries.



RCBC is very diligent about conducting Club Health Checks and Member Satisfaction Surveys in line with Rotary International guidelines. The results of the survey conducted by Rt. Diana Cotran were presented in a club meeting. RCBC members were satisfied with overall club performance.

The scores were high for involving new and old members in projects and fundraising activities. The results were excellent for quality of guest speakers, service projects undertaken by the club locally and internationally.

Members feel that they are making a difference in their own community and worldwide and feel a strong sense of engagement and belonging. The members also offered valuable suggestions to further enhance the operations of the club.



## Orphans' Christmas Event

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019



Per tradition, RCBC hosted an annual event where around 100 children were treated to an afternoon of fun, games and magic. This event was organized by Rt. Olga Joelle Feghali, together with our BCRAC club. The children, ages 4 to 16, hailed from the Orphanages of St. Charbel of the Sisters of the Healthy Hearts of Baabdat ,St. Vincent de Paul of Beirut, and from the St. Charles School in Beirut.

The children were treated to a cable car ride from Jounieh to Harissa, visited Notre Dame and played in the beautiful gardens of the place. After a sumptuous lunch at Laura's restaurant, the children enjoyed dancing, shows and animations and were surprised by the arrival of Santa and his magical bag of gifts. It could not have been a more perfect afternoon, thanks to PP Joe Boulos and his wife Doris who were very generous in providing the venue and helping in all the organization. Thanks as well go to the generous donations of RCBC members and to BCRAC for adding the fun touch to the whole afternoon.





There is no greater reward than seeing a smile on the faces of these innocent children. Congratulations RCBC for another successful year in spreading the holiday cheer among those less fortunate.







## Packing of Food Boxes

December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

In the spirit of the season, RCBC joined hands with RC Beirut Cedars to help prepare food boxes to be distributed to needy families across Lebanon. This initiative was masterminded by RC Beirut Cedars who were able to amass an army of volunteers to help in alleviating hunger, especially during the hard times that Lebanon is experiencing now. RCBC contributed 50 boxes of the total. The day was an example of teamwork, solidarity and service at its best.



## Business Meeting with Mrs. Hana Abu Khadra

“NEXT STEP, A JOURNEY OF STRUGGLES AND TRIUMPHS”

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

“Our greatest strength as a human race is our ability to acknowledge our DIFFERENCES, our greatest weakness is our failure to embrace them.” Judith Henderson

Next Step Program was a dream, and through hard work and passion turned into a beautiful reality. Living the experience of having a Downs Syndrome daughter, Ms. Abu Khadra shared her emotional journey with Zeina who grew up to be a productive member of the community. There were obstacles of health, schooling and acceptance but eventually the resilience of the human spirit triumphed and Next Step was born. It is a university-based Transition and Career Guidance Education Program for youth and adults with intellectual challenges. The curriculum is Life Centered Education (LCE) designed to meet the needs of students who have learning disabilities, mild intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders and those who cannot live independently.

LCE identifies 3 critical domains for adult living in the 21st century: daily living skills, self determination and interpersonal skills and employment skills. The team comprising LCE in the Next Step program is students and their families, teaching staff and community businesses and organizations. The vision of the program is:

- Inclusion: include these students in university life in all its aspects.
- Employment: reach out to potential job placement.
- Community: grow and develop a model to be repeated and taught in other schools.

Ms. Abu Khadra concluded this inspiring project and presentation by stating that this is not only about Zeina and her personal growth but about the community and all those who touched their lives. It is about those that built the foundation that made the struggle turn into triumph. She goes on to say “ when we judge someone based on their disabilities we miss out on their abilities, beauty and uniqueness.





**Business Meeting with Mrs. Mira Saade Moarbes Joint Session with RC Saida**

**“LEBANON PROTESTS- BETWEEN REALITY AND THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK”**

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Jointly with RC Saida, RCBC invited Mrs. Moarbes to shed light on the recent uprising in Lebanon that started on October 17 and is still going on in an attempt by the people to change bad practices that were imposed upon them for years.

The presentation started by a road map that started in January 2019 and the accumulation of events over the year that finally led to the peaceful demonstrations by all members of the Lebanese society. Garbage crisis and its impact on health and environment, high tuitions in schools that were untenable by parents, freedom of expression that was threatened, retired military personnel protesting the cut in their benefits, protests against high tension electricity poles that were causing cancer, protests against the Bisri Dam project that every study showed it will be an environmental disaster, wild fires that burnt acres of green spaces and the WhatsApp tax, the hair that finally broke the camels back.

October 17 did not just come about haphazardly; it was a date when people wanted to start the rebirth of the new Lebanon, the Lebanon that they dream of for their kids and families, a Lebanon devoid of corruption and injustices.



The speaker, in addressing the legal framework of the past events, emphasized Paragraph C of the Lebanese Constitution “Lebanon is a parliamentary democratic republic based on respect for public liberties, especially the freedom of opinion and belief, and respect for social justice and equality of rights and duties among all citizens without discrimination”. When it came to the rights of people to demonstrate, she presented the argument in a balanced view: people have the right to peaceful demonstrations and the public authorities should show degree of tolerance towards peaceful gatherings. But, blocking roads without providing alternate routes for the ease of movement of people is not well tolerated.

As to Law Enforcement vs excessive use of force, there are principles that govern the exercise of power by Law Enforcement Officers. These principles are guided by PLAN

*P: Proportionality (balance between using force and possible consequences and harm caused by its use).*

*L: Legality (to serve legitimate objectives established by law).*

*A: Accountability*

*N: Necessity (should force be used at all? If so, how much?)*

Will Protests be a Win or Fail? This is a question that cannot be answered yet, in the case of Lebanon. To date, the protests have achieved part of their objectives. The government resigned, the politicians finally woke up to the fact that the citizens have rights to be respected, and voices that cannot be silenced.

This was a very comprehensive presentation that few lines will not give it justice. The complete version is on the RCBC website.

## Pinning of new member M. Nasr El-Baba

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

In January 2020, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan welcomed Mr. Nasr EL Baba as a new member.

A young professional, Mr. El-Baba is the Head of Internal Audit Unit at Med Investment Bank SAL and Senior Supervisory Internal Auditor at Bank Med SAL. He was senior auditor at Deloitte and a trainer at KPMG.

On the volunteer side, Nasr did work with refugees in the 2006 war and is interested in policies addressing conflict resolution and peacemaking.

A big welcome to Nasr to our club!





**Business Meeting with Dr. Habib Torbay Joint Session With RC Metn**

**“INTERNET IN LEBANON, MYTH AND REALITIES: THE UNTOLD STORY”**

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020



Some stories are better left unsaid and sadly this is one of them about the reality of the Internet in Lebanon.

From being the pioneers in Europe, Middle East and Africa in 1995 to trailing behind in speed, services and coverage in 2020!!! Dr. Torbay gave a brief overview how the internet started in 1983 in USA, was implemented by the Department of Defense to create communication links between computers to fend off a Soviet attack. In 1991, the World Wide Web (WWW) was created to access the internet. But it was in 1992 that the US Congress authorized the opening of the internet beyond the military, academics and beyond the US.

The first ISP was launched in Lebanon in 1995 whereas In France it was done in 1998. Resistance came from the Ministry of Telecommunications citing that emails will endanger postal services and Fax and the International websites will pause danger to international traffic revenues. The leadership of the late PM Rafiq Hariri stood firmly behind the decision to launch, being the man of vision for Lebanon.

The realities behind the decline are numerous: unimplemented new Telecom Law which opened the doors to abuse, increasing costs, illegal connections of homes that cost the government 6M \$ a month in revenues, no direct links to Europe , no satellite backup, and we mainly depend on Cyprus and Egypt.

To add insult to injury, Lebanon was a pioneer in establishing in 1967 an Undersea Cable Beirut-Marseille which was not utilized by the authorities, consequently Lebanon is poorly underserved when Cyprus became the international hub.

And we wonder why the demonstrations started in October 17....it was a show of rebellion against those in power who drove this country to the ground!

## Welcome Back KARIN

RCBC welcomed back Rtn Karin Saab who joined us back.



## Business Meeting with Mr. Marc Torbey Helou Joint session with RC Kesrouan

"LIFE TESTIMONIAL"

January 28<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Occasionally, we come across unique individuals who inspire us and make us renew our belief in the resilience of the human spirit and affirm the saying "when there's a will, there is a way".

One such individual is the guest speaker in our business meeting, Mr. Helou, who captured the hearts and attention of the audience.

A young bank branch manager, Marc was a volunteer leader for the organization Offre Joie for 15 years, mobilizing youth from all faiths all over Lebanon to help the poor and disadvantaged. He worked on summer camps with the youth focusing on civil society issues, public health and promoting citizenship to reinforce peace building.

In times of turmoil, he was active in handling emergency situations to alleviate human suffering. In his own words "we had to rehabilitate a whole neighborhood, with the help of 600 volunteers over a period of three months. It was one of the biggest volunteer projects in the Middle East, and now we are being used as a model in the United Nations".



An athlete, avid swimmer and active young man, he was robbed of this in September 2016 when a diving accident left him a tetraplegic, a tragedy that took away his mobility but blessed him with even a bigger heart and more determination than ever to help all people with disabilities. He lobbied and succeeded in having the Grand Serail accessible to people with special needs. He believes that it is very important to maintain a positive attitude as a way of dealing with his new reality, and help others deal with theirs, he most recently started collaborating with restaurants and pub owners to make their venues wheelchair accessible and friendly.

Marc is a man with a great will and a great voice.... his work will resonate and inspire our young people for years to come. "The darkest moments of our lives are not to be buried and forgotten, rather they are a memory to be called upon for inspiration to remind us of the unrelenting human spirit and our capacity to overcome the intolerable" Vince Lombardi



## Reaching Out

RCBC has a long standing affiliation with the Lebanese Food Bank where the club donates food boxes annually to be distributed to needy families across Lebanon. This year, the club contribution was doubled due to the dire economic situation that the country is going through.

P Adib and PP Mounir Jabre paid a visit to Dr. Kamal Sinno, Founder of LFB, to further cement our collaboration with the organization.



January 18, 2020

Taking into consideration the difficult times the country is going through and the tough economic situation, RCBC distributed 50 food boxes as a joint initiative with RC Beirut Cedars and the Lebanese Food Bank





*Joint project with other Lebanese Rotary Clubs*

Saghbine School : Supply of Laptops, routers and projectors.

January 20,2020

The service projects arm of RCBC extends geographically to wherever immediate help is needed. RCBC led for many years a computer project for schools in Lebanon and most recently few clubs collaborated to donate laptops, overhead projectors and routers to a school in Saghbine in the Bekaa Valley. RCBC participated in this project through a generous private donation from one of its members. A true example of reaching out and Service Above Self



## *Banner Exchanges*

*Rotary Club of St Petersburg FL with PP George Beyrouti*

*January 13<sup>th</sup> , 2020*



CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS / EVENTS

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE,2020 HAWAII

<https://www.consultancy-me.com/news/2066/arthur-d-little-pays-respects-to-harland-riker-and-kamal-saad>

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*Many Happy Birthday Returns*

December

Yervant Hakimian  
Wael Hamdan  
Subhi Jarudi

January

Colin Gibson  
Mona Jarudi  
Nada Maalouf  
Farida Najjar  
Habib Saba

THE END